

43. BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL CO-ORDINATION WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

The co-ordination of the work of the United Nations and of its specialized agencies was discussed at the Second Session of the Assembly and a proposal was adopted, which Canada supported, requesting Members to take measures to ensure, on the national level, a co-ordinated policy for their delegations to the United Nations and to the specialized agencies. It was considered that only if such co-ordination were achieved could there be any well-integrated approach to problems affecting more than one United Nations agency. This resolution also emphasized the necessity for avoiding overlapping and duplication of effort; and requested the specialized agencies to submit annually to the Economic and Social Council their reports on past activities and their programmes of operation for the subsequent fiscal year. Finally, the resolution asked the Specialized Agencies to transmit their budgets for 1949 and for each subsequent year to the Secretary-General of the United Nations before July 1 of the preceding year.

In the Fifth Committee, the specific question of financial co-ordination between the United Nations and its specialized agencies was studied in detail. Most of the discussion centred around the interpretation of Article 17, paragraph 3, and Articles 57 and 58 of the Charter. Article 17 (3) states:

The General Assembly shall consider and approve any financial and budgetary arrangements with specialized agencies referred to in Article 57 and shall examine the administrative budgets of such specialized agencies with a view to making recommendations to the agencies concerned.

Article 58 states:

The Organization shall make recommendations for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies.

The Canadian representative took the position that it would be dangerous to interpret these sections of the Charter in a manner which would lead to direct interference by the United Nations in